

Accident Briefs (Aviation Accident Briefs)

Rotary-Wing AH-64

D Model

- Class A: Both crewmembers suffered fatal injuries when the aircraft impacted the ground during a turn and a postcrash fire ensued.
- Class C: While conducting a CM2RI mission, the crew heard loud impact. The aircraft began to vibrate but was controllable, and the decision was made to return to the airfield. Upon landing and shutdown, it was determined a bird had struck the main rotor leading edge of the tip cap.

CH-47

D Model

- Class C: While in flight, the right pilot jettisonable door separated from the aircraft. The aircraft returned to the airfield and shut down without further incident. The door was recovered but was damaged beyond repair.

OH-58

D(R) Model

- Class B: The aircraft broke through the ice during a landing on a frozen body of water. Structural damage was reported.
- Class C: The aircraft experienced a TGT spike (1,000 C) during startup.

- Class C: The aircraft sustained damage to the main and tail rotor blades during diving fire gunnery training. The damage was caused by the .50-caliber casings.

- Class C: The aircraft struck the ground hard during manual throttle operations and suffered damage to the landing gear.

UH-60

A Model

- Class C: The crew experienced a No. 2 engine oil pressure indication during runup. Inspection revealed the engine oil service cap had not been replaced. The engine had to be replaced.

L Model

- Class C: A flock of birds struck the main rotor system. One of the main rotor blades was damaged and replaced.

Fixed-Wing

RC-12

D Model

- Class C: After conducting a normal landing under visual flight rules conditions, the aircraft struck a pheasant during rollout. The bird ran onto the runway and directly into the right-hand propeller as the aircraft decelerated. The engine instruments all indicated normal after the impact, and the crew continued to operate the aircraft to a safe and normal stop and

shutdown. Maintenance personnel determined the damage to the propeller and engine exceeded repairable limits. The engine and propeller both were replaced.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

RQ-5A

- Class A: The Unmanned Aircraft System initiated uncontrolled flight during operator training. The recovery chute was deployed, but it separated from the airframe. The UAS landed hard and a postcrash fire ensued.

RQ-7B

- Class B: The UAS did not properly launch and landed about three feet in front of the launcher. There were no personnel injuries as a result of the mishap.

- Class B: The UAS failed to climb out and crashed shortly after launch.

- Class B: The UAS operator received "Generator Fail" and "Ignition Fail" alert messages during flight, and the engine RPM dropped to zero. The operator was able to land the system, which suffered damage in the incident.

RQ-11

- Class C: The operator lost computer link with the UAS during flight. The aircraft was never located and a

total loss was reported.

- Class C: The UAS landed about 200 meters past the IZ and was never recovered. A total loss was reported.
- Class C: The operators lost their signal with the aircraft and were unable to regain control, resulting in the loss of the UAS.
- Class C: The UAS would not respond to commands, failing to turn left or right. The aircraft was commanded to fly back toward the forward operating base, and contact was lost in a nearby CP.

(Ground Accident Briefs) ACV

- Class B (Damage): An M-2 Bradley suffered Class B damage when it overturned into a canal. The vehicle was at the rear of a convoy movement negotiating a bridge when the right rear of the vehicle dropped off the bridge. No injuries were reported. The accident occurred during the early morning.

AMV

- Class A: Soldier drowned when the M1114 up-armored HMMWV he was operating ran off the road while turning onto a narrow road and rolled over into a canal. The vehicle's gunner was injured. The accident occurred in the late evening.
- Class A (Damage): A

commercial excavator was being hauled by a M916 truck tractor when it struck a pedestrian overpass on highway. The accident occurred in the mid-afternoon.

- Class C (Damage): The driver of a M984AI HMETT lost control of the vehicle upon applying the brakes, causing it and the disabled Marine vehicle it was towing to begin swerving from side to side. Both vehicles contacted the side and median barriers several times and jackknifed, blocking all four lanes of traffic. The investigation into the mishap revealed the driver was speeding and did not rig the HMETT properly for towing. The accident occurred in the late evening.

Personnel Injury

- Class A: Soldier suffered fatal burns while burning trash in his yard. The Soldier had poured a flammable liquid on the fire, causing the flames to flare up and burn him on 90 percent of his body. The Soldier was airlifted to a burn center, where he died the following day. The accident occurred in the early evening.
- Class B: Soldier's finger had to be amputated after it was struck by a .22-caliber round. The Soldier was attempting to remove the pistol's magazine and had pulled the slide to the rear. When he released the slide,

the weapon discharged a round through the Soldier's left pinky finger. Due to the extensive bone damage to the finger, medical personnel were unable to save it. The accident occurred in the mid-afternoon.

- Class B: Soldier suffered a permanent partial disability when he struck the ground after his parachute malfunctioned during a civilian parachuting event. The accident occurred in the early evening.

- Class B: Soldier suffered a permanent partial disability when he was struck just above the knee with a shotgun round while conducting a live-fire close-quarters training exercise. The Soldier was checking a door to a room when a Soldier from another team breached the door with a shotgun from the other side. The injured Soldier was evacuated to a hospital, where his knee cap was removed. The Soldier was placed on convalescent leave, after which he was to be evaluated for physical therapy. The accident occurred in the late evening.

(Driving/Off-duty Accident Briefs)

The following reports reflect accidents that have happened to Soldiers in their privately owned vehicles, during recreational activities and in other non-tactical environments.

POV (CARS)

- Class A: Four Soldiers were injured, one fatally, when their vehicle left the road, struck a light pole and overturned. The front seat passenger, who had not worn a seatbelt, was pinned underneath the vehicle and suffered fatal injuries. The driver was hospitalized for 17 days. The driver and the deceased passenger had been drinking.

- Class A: A Soldier was riding in a car driven by another Soldier when the car left the road, struck a tree and overturned. Both Soldiers, who were wearing their seatbelts, suffered fatal injuries.

- Class A: Soldier was fatally injured when the vehicle he was operating was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle. The Soldier was pronounced dead at the scene.

- Class A: Soldier's vehicle stalled on the highway, causing him to pull off the road and into the truck lane. A tractor-trailer struck the Soldier's vehicle from behind, crushing it and fatally injuring the Soldier.

- Class A: Soldier was traveling in the left-hand lane of a two-lane road going faster than 94 mph in a 45 mph posted speed zone as she passed vehicles in the right-hand lane. After

passing the vehicles, she attempted to pullback into the right-hand lane, but went too far and went off the edge of the road. She overcorrected, lost control and crossed into the oncoming lanes. The car spun 270 degrees (the front of the car was pointed toward the median) as the car was struck on the rear driver side by an east-bound vehicle. The impact caused the Soldier's car to flip upside down onto the roof of the eastbound vehicle, which continued another 800 meters down the road before going off the right-hand side of the road and hitting a tree. The Soldier, who was wearing her seatbelt, was partially ejected from her vehicle and suffered severe head trauma. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

- Class A: Soldier was driving his pickup with another Soldier as a passenger when it left the road and went into a ditch. The driver, who was not wearing his seatbelt, was thrown from the vehicle and suffered fatal injuries. The passenger was wearing his seatbelt and was treated and released.

- Class A: Soldier was driving with another Soldier riding as a passenger as they headed to a friend's home. At approximately 1:05 a.m. the vehicle, estimated to be going 70 mph in a 40 mph zone, ran off the road, struck a mail box and then hit a tree. The impact wrapped

the vehicle around the tree, splitting the vehicle in half and ejecting the passenger. Although both Soldiers were wearing their seatbelts, both were killed in the accident.

POM (Motorcycles)

- Class A: A Soldier was riding his motorcycle early in the morning in a poorly lit area when he approached a right-hand marked by a single small arrow sign. Entering the turn too fast, he ran off the road and attempted to recover. When he reentered the road, his rear wheel was locked, causing the bike to slide and go down on its right side. The bike and rider slid off the road and down an embankment. The soldier suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

- Class A: Soldier was fatally injured when his motorcycle collided with a sport-utility vehicle that violated right-of-way and turned left into his path.

Editor's note:

Information published in this section is based on preliminary mishap reports submitted by units and is subject to change. For more information on selected accident briefs, call DSN 558-9552 (334-255-9552) or DSN 558-3410 (334-255-3410).